

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please amend paragraphs [0014] and [0020] as follows:

[0014] Conventional ball check valves include a housing having walls that define a fluid inlet 102, a fluid outlet 104, and a chamber 106 communicating with inlet 102 and with outlet ~~106~~ 104. Chamber 106 includes a fluid passageway between inlet 102 and outlet 104. The housing may include ball guiding structures or members or a guide part (~~not shown~~) 200 for guiding a spherical ball along a path of travel between a first flow impeding position adjacent the inlet and a second position spaced from the inlet and laterally from the straight fluid passageway. An opening to the chamber is covered by a cap 108, which is fixed by, for example, a bolt and a nut. The opening is given a larger size than the ball and is used for inserting the ball into chamber 106.

[0020] As the valve opens with the ball being pushed laterally from the straight fluid passageway by the flow velocity, conventional balls tend to bounce, e.g. from side to side and up and down, in the guide part 200. However, with the use of energy absorbing members 304 within ball 302 in accordance with the principles of the present invention, this bouncing is greatly reduced. Smaller energy absorbing members 304 always trail the movement of larger ball 302. As a result, the sum of the energy movement of all the smaller members together duels and slows down the movement of the larger ball. The resulting internal forces stabilize the movement of the ball during the normal flow condition and reduce the noise created by conventional ball valves.